

**HUEY'S MESSAGE TO
THE REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE'S
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
PLENARY SESSION SEPTEMBER 5, 1970
PHILADELPHIA, PA.**



HUEY'S MESSAGE TO THE REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE'S CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION PLENARY SESSION SEPTEMBER 5, 1970 PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Friends and comrades throughout the United States and throughout the world, we gather here in peace and friendship to claim our inalienable rights, to claim the rights bestowed upon us by an unbroken train of abuses and usurpations, and to perform the duty which is thus required of us. Our sufferance has been long and patient, our prudence has stayed this final hour, but our human dignity and strength requires that we still the voice of prudence with the cries of our sufferance. Thus we gather in the spirit of revolutionary love and friendship for all oppressed people of the world regardless of their race or the race and doctrine of their oppressors. We gather to proclaim to the world that for 200 years we have suffered this long train of abuses and usurpations while holding to the hope that this would pass. We recognize however, that it has now passed and we are a people who enjoy no equal protection of the law, and our future action must be guided by our sufferance, and not by our prudence.

Two centuries ago when the United States was a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the conditions which prevailed in the nation, and the assumptions upon which its foundations were built, were such that they ensured the United States would come to its maturity under circumstances which mean that for a substantial proportion of its citizens' life is nothing more than a prison of poverty, and the only happiness we enjoy is the laughing to keep from crying.

The United States of America was born at a time when the nation covered relatively little land, a narrow strip of political divisions on the Eastern seaboard. The United States of America was born at a time when the population was small and fairly homogeneous both racially and culturally. Thus the people called Americans were a different people in a different place. Furthermore, they had a different economic system. The small population and the fertile land available meant that with the agricultural emphasis of the economy, people were able to advance according to their motivation and ability. It was an agricultural economy and with the circumstances surrounding it, Demo-

cratic Capitalism flourished in the new nation.

The following years were to see this new nation rapidly develop into a multi-limbed giant. The new nation acquired land and spread from a narrow strip on the Eastern seaboard to cover the entire continent with but few exceptions. The new nation acquired a population to fill this newly acquired land. This population was drawn from the continents of Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. Thus a nation conceived by homogeneous people of a small number and in a small area grew into a nation of a heterogeneous people, comprising a large number, and spread across an entire continent. This change in the fundamental characteristics of the nation and its people substantially changed the nature of American society. Furthermore, the social changes were marked by economic changes. A rural and agricultural economy became an urban and industrialized economy, as farming was replaced by manufacturing. The Democratic Capitalism of our early days became caught up in a relentless drive to obtain profits until the selfish motivation for profit eclipsed the unselfish principles of democracy. Thus 200 years later we have an overdeveloped economy which is so infused with the need for profit that we have replaced Democratic Capitalism with Bureaucratic Capitalism. The free opportunity of all men to pursue their economic ends has been replaced by constraints (confinement) placed upon Americans by the large corporations which control and direct our economy. They have sought to increase their profits at the expense of the people, and particularly at the expense of the racial and ethnic minorities.

The history of the United States, as distinguished from the promise of the idea of the United States leads us to the conclusion that our sufferance is basic to the functioning of the government of the United States. We see this when we note the basic contradictions found in the history of this nation. The government, the social conditions, and the legal documents which brought freedom from oppression, which brought human dignity and human rights to one portion of the people of this nation had entirely opposite

consequences from a the people. While the achieved their basic the minorities achieve the lands of their faith. The evidence for the incontrovertible.

We find evidence for dom and minority of fact that the expansion States government and of lands was at the the American Indians sors of the land a imate heirs. The lo Cherokee on the " and the actual dissap other Indian nations unwillingness and inab ernment and this gover tution to incorporate r

We find evidence for dom and minority of fact that even while th were proclaiming the were deliberately and depriving Africans of These basic contradic ther exacerbated (mad which implicitly admitt jority was wrong, but right. Thus when the Independence was draft Fathers considered equivalent to 3/5 of a the slaves were emanc cendants of the Foundin promised that freedom territory. These conwo basic to the thinking o that legal attempts to c traditions through Amendments and Civil R produced no change in and we are still a peop protection and due pr We recognize then that acts of the United Stat when contrasted with of freedom, carries fo contradiction found in documents upon which th is based.

Generation after gen majority group have b have worked, and they fruits of their labors i erty and happiness of and grandchildren. Gener eration of Black peopl have been born, they and they have seen the labors in the life, libe ness of the children and of their oppressors, w descendants wallow in poverty and deprivation to the hope of change This hope has sustaine years and has led us administrations of a co ment. At the dawn of th this hope led us to for Rights movement in the government would event promise to Black peop recognize, however, th to complete the promi Century Revolution in of a 20th Century gove

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omy and society was doomed to failure.
The descendants of that small company
of original settlers of this land are
not among the common people of today,
they have become a small ruling class
in control of worldwide economic sys-
tem. The Constitution set up by their
ancestors to serve the people no longer
serves the people, for the people have
changed. The people of the 18th Cen-
tury have become the ruling class of
the 20th Century, and the people of
the 20th Century are the descendants
of the slaves and dispossessed of the
18th Century. The Constitution set up
to serve the people of the 18th Century
now serves the ruling class of the 20th
Century, and the people of today stand
waiting for a foundation of their own
life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.
The Civil Rights Movement has not
produced this foundation, and it can-
not produce this foundation because of
the nature of the United States society
and economy. The vision of the Civil
Rights Movement is to achieve goals
which have been altered by 200 years
of change. Thus the Civil Rights Move-
ment and similar movements have pro-
duced no foundation for life, liberty
and the pursuit of happiness. They
have produced humiliating programs
of welfare and unemployment compen-
sation, programs with sufficient form
to deceive the people, but with insuf-
ficient substance to change the funda-
mental distribution of power and re-
sources in this country.

Moreover, while these movements
attempt to get minorities into the sys-
tem, we note that the government con-
tinues its pattern of practices which
contradict its democratic rhetoric. We
recognize now that we see history re-
peating itself, but on an international
as well as a national scale. The relent-
less drive for profit led this nation
to colonize, oppress and exploit its
minorities. This profit drive took this
nation from democratic capitalism and
underdevelopment, to bureaucratic
capitalism and overdeveloped industry.
Now we see that this small ruling
class continues its profit drive by op-
pressing and exploiting the peoples of
the world. Throughout the world the
lumpenproletariat is crushed so that
the profits of American industry can
continue to flow. Throughout the world
the freedom struggles of oppressed
people are opposed by this government
because they are a threat to bureau-
cratic capitalism in the United States
of America.

We gather here to let it be known
at home and abroad that a nation con-
ceived in liberty and dedicated to life,
liberty and the pursuit of happiness
has in its maturity become and im-
perialist power dedicated to death, op-
pression and the pursuit of profits.
We will not be deceived by so many
of our fellow men, we will not be
blinded by small changes in form which
lack any change in the substance of
imperialist expansion. Our suffering
has been too long, our sacrifices have
been too great, and our human dig-
nity is too strong for us to be pru-
dent any longer.

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY CALLS
FOR FREEDOM AND THE POWER TO
DETERMINE OUR DESTINY.

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY CALLS
FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL
OUR PEOPLE.

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY CALLS
FOR AN END TO THE CAPITALIST
EXPLOITATION OF OUR COM-
MUNITY.

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY CALLS
FOR DECENT HOUSING FOR ALL OUR
PEOPLE.

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY CALLS
FOR A TRUE EDUCATION OF OUR
PEOPLE.

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY CALLS
FOR EXEMPTION FROM MILITARY
SERVICE.

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY CALLS
FOR AN END TO POLICE BRUTALITY.

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY CALLS
FOR FREEDOM FOR ALL POLITICAL
PRISONERS.

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY CALLS
FOR FAIR TRIALS FOR ALL MEN
BY A JURY OF THEIR PEERS.

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY CALLS
FOR A UNITED NATIONS PLEBISCITE
TO DETERMINE THE WILL OF BLACK
PEOPLE AS TO THEIR NATIONAL
DESTINY.

Black people and oppressed people
in general have lost faith in the lead-
ers of America, in the government
of America, and in the very struc-
ture of American government--that
is the Constitution, its legal founda-
tion. This loss of faith is based upon
the overwhelming evidence that this
government will not live according to
that Constitution because the Consti-
tution is not designed for its people.
For this reason we assemble a Con-
stitutional Convention to consider ra-
tional and positive alternatives.
Alternatives which will place their em-
phasis on the common man. Alterna-
tives which will bring about a new
economic system in which the rewards
as well as the work will be equally
shared by all people--a Socialist
framework. Alternatives which will
guarantee that within the Socialist
framework all groups will be ade-
quately represented in the decision-
making and administration which af-
fects their lives. Alternatives which
will guarantee that all men will attain
their full manhood rights, that they will
be able to live, be free, and seek out
those goals which give them respect
and dignity while permitting the same
privileges for every other man regard-
less of his condition or status.

The sacredness of man and of the
human spirit requires that human dig-
nity and integrity ought to be always
respected by every other man. We will
settle for nothing less, for at this
point in history anything less is but a
living death. WE WILL BE FREE
and we are here to ordain a new Con-
stitution which will ensure our free-
dom by enshrining (cherishing) the
dignity of the human spirit.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE

SURVIVAL THROUGH SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE

On November 27th through the 29th, the masses will come to Washington D.C. - to make people's history - to rewrite the Constitution of the United States. The present Constitution was designed to serve the needs of a small group of people whose descendant now constitute the ruling class of America. On the other hand, the masses of the people in this country who have descended from slaves and Indians as well as those whose lands were expropriated, such as Mexicans and Puerto Ricans are systematically excluded from a meaningful participation in the government of America. Furthermore, Poor whites, sons of whom descended from recent immigrants, and others who have been here for generation have also been excluded.

We need a New Constitution to take account of the situation and needs of all these groups and at Washington, we will formulate a New Constitution.

The overall theme of the Constitution Convention will be: SURVIVAL THROUGH SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE. The Black Panther Party along with the people will formulate a new constitution and we will also extend the range and the quality of our service to the people of the community. The new constitution will be developed in Washington, but it is what we do after we leave Washington which will determine whether we will gain further support of the people and make it possible for them to relate to and support the new constitution. But what we do after we leave Washington will depend very much on what we do in Washington.

There will be many people in Washington from all over the country. Many will come to look, cheer and to celebrate. We must do more than this, we must constantly work to serve the people and meet their needs. The Black Panther Party has done this in the past through our Breakfast program, through our Health Clinics, our Liberation Schools and other programs. We are moving rapidly forward in our Bus program to prisons, our loans to welfare mothers, and our program of distribution of free shoes and clothing. We must develop more programs and we must make the existing programs more effective. We can make great strides in these efforts by effectively recruiting in Washington. We should try to enlist the active support of as many people as possible in Washington for these and other programs.

Throughout the convention we will urge people to sign up for work in their home areas-- to carry the convention to the people. Survival through service to the people will be our message.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE
BLACK PANTHER PARTY

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